



Dear Retailers

The person in possession of this letter is a member of the autism community and we would appreciate your understanding to facilitate their needs at this time. As Social Distancing now becomes a long-term feature of our way of life to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, understanding the needs of the autism is now more than ever is vital.

As we begin lifting restrictions across the country on a phased basis more and more people will begin to emerge from their homes. As a result of this, we will experience new shopping etiquette measures being adopted by retailers regarding Social Distancing.

One of these new measures which will have a significant impact on many autism families across the country is the new practice of queuing outside retail outlets with their autistic child/children, some of which have an intellectual disability. For some members of our community this will become a weekly or daily challenge. Queuing can be quite difficult for autistic individuals and is something that can create a struggle; it can induce anxiety, meltdowns and unease amongst our autistic community.

As Ireland's National Autism Charity, we are calling for your understanding and consideration for members of our autism community. To this end, we are asking retailers to provide a **dispensation when it comes to queuing outside retail outlets for the autistic community**. Such a dispensation will make the new shopping experience as seamless and less difficult for the many autism families around the country.

Thank you for your understanding at this time.

The AsIAM Team

*During this period, many people will not have access to their service providers. Proof of diagnosis can also be in the form of an assessment report, a letter from a GP or health professional, a letter from school, an AsIAM ID card or a carer's card.

